1: Rosen E-5 (1901-1902) 1924 SK6 Choroti SK6

136 481 292 I have mentioned that the Choroti do not possess any water-craft, so that when fishing with nets they often have to wade or swim. In doing this, they expose themselves to being attacked by palometa fishes. As a protection for their legs in wading, the Indians occasionally wear a kind of mail stockings of caraguatá (see p. 54), but when they are swimming, they often get badly mauled by these fierce fishes, and I saw several Choroti with enormous scars from the bites of palometas (fig. 53). It also happens, now and again, that Indians, whem swimming, get killed by caymans, which, here and there, are plentiful.

[286 824]

Fig. 118. Mesh-spacer of palo santo (Bulnesia sarmienti). Length 14.9 cm, width 3.0 cm; thickness along longitudinal axis 0.9 cm. The thickness decreases towards the longer edges, which are rounded. Choroti. Gran Chaco. Bolivia. Riksm. 03. 3. 342.

222 In the collection of the fruits, roots and pith of wild plants the Choroti possess an important source of subsistence. The Chaco Indians obtain edible fruits from, inter alia, the algaroba (Prosopis alba), the chañar (Gourlica decortitans), the mistol (Zizyphus mistol) and the tusca (Acacia aroma). The rootstocks of the caraguatá, or chahuar (Bromelia serra), plant are used for food by these Indians, and the same applies to the pith of the fan palm (Copernicia australis). For pulling down within reach the fruit-bearing branches of trees, the Indians make use of wooden hooks with a short arm and a long one, the latter then serving as a handle, whilst the tree branch which is to be bent down, is hooked with the shorter arm of the implement.[1] In digging up the spiny caraguatá plants the Choroti use a forked stick.[2]

[227]

241

Fig. 119. Fishing hook of iron, with line of caraguatá fibre. Choroti. Gran Chaco. Bolivia. 1/2. Riksm. 03. 3. 238.

Fig. 120. Fish club of palo santo (Handle upwards). Choroti. Gran Chaco. Bolivia. 1/6. Riksm. 03. 3. 87.

At the time of my stay among the Choroti, the part of the tribe with whom I was in touch carried on no other agriculture than the growing of pumpkins in a primi-

[1] Nordenskiöld (11), fig. 3.
[2] Nordenskiöld (12), fig. 49.

2: Nordenskiöld E-5 (1908-1909) 1919
SK6 Choroti SK6
Ashluslay SK5

VI.

Tools used for collecting Wild Plants.

For bending down the high branches of the carob-tree (algarrobo) and other fruit-bearing trees, the Choroti and the Ashluslay use a long wooden hook. For digging out the prickly Caraguatá plant, they use a kind of long wooden fork (see «Indianerleben», fig. 49). The implement reproduced in Fig. 3 serves to tear up high grass. None of these implements have been observed, as far as I know, outside the Chaco. I have therefore counted them among the typical cultural elements of the Chaco Indians.

A
C
222

Fig. 3. Tool of wood used for tearing up high grass. Choroti. G. M. (D IIII). 1/5.